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**NEW LEGISLATION MAKES EVERYDAY TRANSACTIONS EASIER  
FOR PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**

“Signature Stamp Law” allows for legal use of rubber stamp signatures

May 23, 2006 (*Carson City, Nev.*) – Nevadans with physical disabilities who are unable to write their names will benefit from a new law and from regulations recently adopted by the Nevada Legislative Commission’s Subcommittee to Review Regulations. The “Signature Stamp Bill” was passed and signed into law as Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 426.257 on May 10, 2005; related regulations were approved and adopted on May 4, 2006.

The bill, introduced by the Legislative Committee on Persons with Disabilities, was initiated in collaboration with the Nevada Disability and Advocacy Law Center, and was prompted by the number of persons with severe physical disabilities who often experience problems in routine – and necessary – transactions, like signing in at election polling places, signing real estate contracts and other instances when signatures are required to access a service or authorize a transaction.

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Todd Butterworth, Chief of the Nevada Office of Disability Services, shared his thoughts on the issue. “Imagine the difficulties you would encounter without being able to sign things. This important legislation simply puts people with disabilities on equal footing, and provides the freedom they need to live independent and productive lives. We all owe a debt of gratitude to local advocate Santa Perez, who championed this issue at the state level.”

According to NRS 426.257, people with physical disabilities who are unable to sign their name are legally authorized to use a rubber signature stamp for all purposes that a signature is required. No special certification is required, and signature stamps can be purchased from any retailer that sells them.

Businesses, government agencies and other organizations that routinely require signatures are encouraged to educate their staff about the new law. The law can be found online at: <http://leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-426.html#NRS426Sec257>

The Office of Disability Services serves as a general coordinator of disability services in Nevada, and also offers specific services to people with physical disabilities who need help in living more independently.

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services promotes the health and well-being of Nevadans through the delivery and facilitation of essential services to ensure that families are strengthened, public health is protected and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency. Under Director Michael J. Willden, each of the Department’s agencies is committed to being accessible and responsive to the public it serves.

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